
The Rural District Council
of the
Isle of Axholme

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year
1946

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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
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ISLE OF AXHOLME

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1946.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
10/12, Lord Street,
Gainsborough.
October, 1947.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year 1946.

Amongst the features worthy of notice, attention is drawn to an increase of 430 in the population figure as compared with that of the previous year. Increasing population gives rise to problems in every aspect of Public Health Administration, especially Housing, and demands every effort in the direction of Sanitary progress.

The Birth Rate of the District shows an increase, whilst the Death Rate shows a slight reduction. A record has been created by the very small Infantile Mortality Rate (the number of Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 Live Births). This figure has dropped to 37.9, and for all England and Wales the figure is 43. Last year this rate was 57.9 in your District.

No serious outbreaks of Infectious Diseases occurred.

The Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the period under review compare favourably with other areas throughout the Country.

The year 1946 marks an epoch in the History of your Health Department, because of the installation of the first "Whole-time" Medical Officer of Health, who also serves in a similar capacity for the Gainsborough Urban and Rural Districts, as well as assisting the County Medical Officer by carrying out certain work such as the duties of District Tuberculosis Officer and School Medical Inspector under the administration of the County Council. This arrangement is in accordance with the County Council's scheme under the Local Government Act of 1933. It is now no longer permissible to appoint, in a part-time capacity, a Medical Officer who is not restricted from engaging in work as a Private Medical Practitioner.

In conclusion, I wish to convey my thanks for the support and consideration which you have given to me at all times in the work of your Public Health Department. I am also grateful for the helpful co-operation received from the Sanitary Inspector and his Staff.

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

SECTION A.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District	51,104 acres
Estimated Population	12,890
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1946	£29,886
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£116/10/7

The District is mainly agricultural.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	140	150	290
Legitimate	133	139	272
Illegitimate	7	11	18
Still Births	4	2	6
Birth Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population			22.96
DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female
1946. All Causes	163	82	81
DEATHS OF INFANTS	Male	Female	Total
UNDER 1 YEAR	7	4	11
Infantile Mortality Rate			37.9

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Cancer of Oesophagus	1	—	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	2	4
Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
Cancer, all other sites	10	5	15
Diabetes	—	1	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	12	18	30
Heart Disease	25	24	49
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2	3
Bronchitis	4	5	9
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	3
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	4	3	7
Nephritis	1	2	3
Congenital Malformation, etc.	4	3	7
Suicide	2	—	2
Other Violent Causes	1	1	2
All Other Causes	7	3	10
	82	81	163

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

Births	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate
1946	290	140	150	22.96
1945	207	104	103	15.8
Deaths	Total	Male	Female	Death Rate
1946	163	82	81	12.6
1945	173	90	83	13.8
Infantile Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)	Total			Infantile Mortality Rate
1946	11			37.9
1945	12			57.9
		†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales		19.1	11.5	43
Isle of Axholme Rural District ...		22.96	12.6	37.9

† Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Diseases were notified during the year 1946:

Diphtheria	6
Scarlet Fever	20
Whooping Cough	10
Measles	3
Erysipelas	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A. Health Officers.

One Whole-time Medical Officer.

One Whole-time Sanitary Inspector and one Additional Sanitary Inspector.

The services of District Nurses and Midwives are available, and Lindsey County Council provide Health Visitors in connection with Tuberculosis, Maternity, Infant and Child Welfare Services.

B. Infectious Diseases.

Patients are admitted to the Brumby Isolation Hospital which is maintained by the Lindsey County Council. Use has also been made of the Gainsborough Isolation Hospital, as well as Grimsby and Doncaster Corporation Fever Hospitals when necessary. Special provision is made by the Lindsey and Lincoln Joint Smallpox Hospital Board for cases of Smallpox. Ambulances are attached to these Hospitals for the removal of Infectious cases.

C. Tuberculosis.

Facilities for the diagnosis, supervision and treatment of cases of Tuberculosis are provided by the County Council. Clinics are available at Gainsborough and Scunthorpe. Cases requiring institutional treatment are sent to the Branston Hall Sanatorium, Lincoln, Brumby Tuberculosis Hospital, Scunthorpe, and the Grimsby Corporation Sanatorium, as well as others outside the County.

D. Maternity and Child Welfare.

This service is administered by the County Council. Centres are held at Epworth, Belton, Crowle and Keadby, and Clinics are sited at Gainsborough and Scunthorpe.

E. School Medical Service.

This service is administered by the County Council. Each school is visited yearly by the Medical Inspector. The services of specialists are available when required.

F. Venereal Diseases.

The County Council arranges for diagnosis and treatment of these diseases at Clinics held at Scunthorpe and Gainsborough.

G. Nursing.

There are five Nurses in the District, who are also certified Midwives. In addition there are Health Visitors, who are highly qualified Nurses employed by the County Council.

H. Laboratory Facilities.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln is used for Bacteriological examinations when necessary.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. Housing.

Six new houses were completed during the year by private enterprise.

2,380 houses were inspected under the Rural Housing Survey.

2. Sewerage.

Sewerage Schemes are in course of preparation for all parishes, and have been approved in principle for Crowle and Althorpe.

3. Water Supply.

Water supply is from the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Board's Waterworks, to all Parishes. About 10% of the houses in the whole of the District have not availed themselves of the piped supply.

The water supply was satisfactory in quality and quantity. There is no plumbo-solvent action.

